

## MAINE GOLF LOCAL RULE 5.6 PACE OF PLAY POLICY

This rule applies to all MaineGolf Championships. A player must not unreasonably delay play, either when playing a hole or between two holes. All players are responsible for knowing their group's position on the course relative to their Allotted Time and are liable for penalty for being Out of Position. The maximum cumulative time (the "Allotted Time") for a group to complete each hole in a round is printed on the group's Golf Genius scorecard provided by the Committee. The Allotted Time is expressed as a cumulative time as at the end of each hole and includes all time associated with playing a round, including for rulings, searching for balls and walking between holes.

### DEFINITIONS

**Allotted Time** - The maximum cumulative time for a group to complete each hole in a round as printed on the group's Golf Genius scorecard provided by the Committee.

**Completed Play (Completing Play)**– Groups have completed play of a hole when all players have holed out and the flagstick has been returned to the hole.

**First Group** – The first group scheduled to begin play and any group after a starter's gap. In a two-tee start this includes the first group off each tee used to begin play. In a two-tee start with both morning and afternoon starting times, this also includes the first groups off each tee in the afternoon round.

**Subsequent Groups** – All groups other than the First Group.

**Out of Position, First Groups Only** – The First Group will be considered "Out of Position" if, at any time during the round, the group's cumulative time upon Completing Play of a hole exceeds its Allotted Time. In a two-tee start (or if applicable to a group after a starter's gap) if a First Group reaches a group ahead, the rules for Subsequent Groups apply.

**Out of Position, Subsequent Groups** – A Subsequent Group will be considered "Out of Position" if, at any time during the round, the group's cumulative time upon Completing Play of a hole exceeds its Allotted Time AND the group is also "out of position" relative to the group in front of it which is when the Subsequent Group:

- a. Arrives at a par 3 hole after all players in the group ahead have played from the Teeing Area of the next hole;
- b. Arrives at a par 4 hole that becomes clear of play before any player in the group has made a stroke from the Teeing Area;
- c. Arrives at a par 5 hole after any player in the group ahead has made a stroke on the Putting Green.

**Adjustment of starting time and Allotted Time:** If a group is and remains "ready to play" (see Clarification 5.3a/3) at its scheduled starting time and the starting time is delayed for any reason not attributable to players in the group (weather, slow play of other groups, or the need for a ruling by a referee), the starter will advise the players of their new official starting time, and the group's Allotted Time will be adjusted accordingly. Rule 5.3(a). The official starting time will be the minute the starter announces the first competitor or allows the group to begin its round. The starter will communicate the adjusted times to all rules officials when and as time permits. This rule does not modify the requirement that each player must start at the player's starting time.

### PROCEDURE / PENALTIES

Referees, under and in accordance with the Committee's guidance and determinations for each event, will monitor the pace of play and apply this local rule to groups and / or individual players. All players in groups that are Out

of Position are liable for penalty under this local rule. In applying this rule, however, referees may penalize individual players within a group who are observed to be unreasonably delaying play. Referees may always determine whether there are possibly mitigating circumstances, for example, a lengthy ruling, a ball search, a lost ball, etc.

The penalties applied for breach of Local Rule 5.6 governing Pace of Play are as follows:

	<b>STROKE PLAY</b>	<b>MATCH PLAY</b>
Out of Position 1st Time:	Warning	Warning
Out of Position 2nd Time:	1 stroke penalty	Loss of hole
Out of Position 3rd Time:	2 stroke penalty	Loss of hole
Out of Position 4th Time:	Disqualification	Disqualification

#### **COMMITTEE'S PROCEDURAL OPTION TO TIME GROUPS WHEN COMMITTEE RESOURCES PERMIT**

If the Committee determines that it has the necessary resources at the course to time groups and players, it may do so in its sole discretion for some or all of the rounds. In that event, if a group is Out of Position, the group may be informed that it is being timed. Players will then be individually timed until they have regained their position on the course. Each player in the group will be expected to make a stroke within 40 seconds. Failure to do so will result in a player being given a "bad time" and his or her being liable for penalty under this rule as follows:

	<b>STROKE PLAY</b>	<b>MATCH PLAY</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Bad Time:	Warning	Warning
2 <sup>nd</sup> Bad Time:	1 stroke penalty	Loss of hole
3 <sup>rd</sup> Bad Time:	2 stroke penalty	Loss of hole
4 <sup>th</sup> Bad Time:	Disqualification	Disqualification

The timing of a player's stroke will begin when the player has had a reasonable opportunity to reach his or her ball, it is the player's turn to play, and the player can play without interference or distraction. Any time a player spends in determining yardage or club selection will count in the player's time for that stroke.

On the putting green, the timing of a player's stroke will begin after the player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to: mark, lift, clean and replace his or her ball; repair his or her ball mark and other ball marks on his or her line of putt; and remove loose impediments on the line of putt. Time spent looking at the line of putt from behind or beyond the hole will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

Players may ask that their group be monitored by an official without identifying an individual causing slow play. Information obtained by that official will be considered in applying penalties under this Rule.

#### **APPEAL PROCESS**

Penalties imposed under this local rule will be issued by the Committee before the players leave the scoring area. Individual players may appeal penalties applied to an entire group. Players must appeal penalties at and before leaving the scoring area. In order for an appeal to be considered, there must have been circumstances or situations beyond a player's control. Information from all Rules Officials assigned to the event may be considered in reviewing the appeal. The final decision rests with the Rules Committee and is not reviewable.

#### **NOTE:**

The Committee shall always be free in its sole discretion to apply such other reasonable pace of play rules and requirements as necessary under the circumstances effectively and efficiently to administer a tournament or a round. For example, when there are very few rules officials available on the course, the Committee may simply require that all rounds be completed within a designated period of time with such penalties as the Committee may specify.